

part to its founder and president, Anthony Joseph. The Queens-bred son of a Jamaican mother and Puerto Rican father, Anthony, understood the significance of culture early on as it related to marketing.

In May 2001, VMG was presented with the Black Enterprise Rising Star Award, in honor of the high revenues garnered by VMG's high profile clients. A year later, VMG offered further proof that they were on the ascent when they turned a cold call and a year of conversation into a multimillion dollar contract with the U.S. Army via advertising giant Leo Burnett.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Joseph has created a successful company through his own hard work and ingenuity. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN
SEHLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Gretchen Sehler of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. As a ski instructor and an avid outdoorswoman, Gretchen has inspired the community to take full advantage of the outdoor recreation opportunities in her community. I would like to join my colleagues here today and recognize Gretchen before this body of Congress and this nation.

Gretchen first moved to Steamboat Springs to work as a ski instructor in 1983. Every winter she dedicates herself to teaching interested people the fundamentals of skiing and, in doing so, has had the opportunity to share her passion for the outdoors. When the ski slopes close for the year, her desire for outdoor recreation remains. In the past, she has spent time as a life guard at the Steamboat Springs Health and Recreation Center, but her current passion is mountain biking. Working for the Parks and Recreational Services Department, she has organized a series of eight mountain bike races involving over eight-hundred riders. Recently, Gretchen and two friends started Rocky Peak Productions and created a new twenty-four hour endurance mountain bike race in Steamboat Springs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Gretchen Sehler and her commitment to improving the lifestyles of her fellow citizens. Outdoor recreation is very important in Colorado's communities and Gretchen's work exemplifies this spirit for recreation. I thank Gretchen for her work and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALTER ALLEN
III

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and congratulate Mr. Walter Allen, III as the newly appointed director of the California Youth Authority by

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. As the director, Mr. Allen oversees one of the largest youth corrections agencies in the nation, with over 4,000 wards, nine institutions, four camps, 16 parole offices and two regional parole offices.

Born and raised in Oakland, California, Mr. Allen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning from California Polytechnic University in Pomona. Following graduation, Mr. Allen began his long and dedicated career in law enforcement beginning as a Police Officer with the Chino Police Department and transitioning to a Special Agent for the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Allen has distinguished himself in every avenue of his career where he has earned special agent assignments and leadership appointments. Most recently, Mr. Allen served as the Assistant Chief for the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

In 1997, Mr. Allen became active in local politics and was elected to serve on the city council for Covina, California, where he has actively participated as Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor. Currently, Mr. Allen serves as council member and continues to work towards maintaining a high quality of life for the citizens of Covina.

Throughout his life, Mr. Allen has demonstrated his commitment to public service through his career and political activism. He has proven to be an honorable citizen and has admirably embraced his civic duty to his country. I am proud to honor Mr. Allen's achievements and congratulate him on his new appointment.

THE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Professional Development Institutes Act, legislation based on a unique and highly successful partnership between the New Haven Public School System and Yale University. Based on the model which has been operating at Yale for over 25 years, my proposal would establish eight new Teacher Professional Development Institutes throughout the country each year over the next five years.

Today, it is more important than ever for our nation's teachers to have access to the skills and resources they need to prepare our children for the future. Since 1978, the Institute has been providing area educators with the opportunity to strengthen themselves professionally through annual seminars in the humanities and sciences—by working with program participants to bring the curriculum and lessons of the seminars to the classroom.

In this bill, every Teacher Institute would consist of a partnership between an institution of higher education and the local public school system in which a significant proportion of the students come from low-income households. The program strengthens the present teacher workforce by giving participants the opportunity to gain more sophisticated content

knowledge and a chance to develop curriculum units that can be directly applied in classrooms. For example, the Yale-New Haven program it is based on has offered several thirteen-session seminars each year, led by Yale faculty, on topics that teachers have selected to enhance their mastery of the specific subject area that they teach.

The result is that teachers have been found to gain confidence in their deeper understanding of the subject matter and enthusiastically deliver their new curriculum to the classroom—qualities that translate into higher expectations for their students and in turn, higher student achievement.

And student achievement is what this effort is about. By allowing teachers to determine the seminar subjects—by providing them the resources to develop curricula for their classroom and their students—this legislation lifts up our students by empowering teachers. With a K through 12 teacher shortage forecast in the near future, those already teaching will do the majority of teaching in the classrooms in the very near future. As such, it is imperative that we invest in methods to strengthen our present teaching workforce.

Like the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute before it, we believe this program can provide a model for communities around the country. And so, it is my distinct honor to introduce the Teacher Professional Development Institutes Act, and I look forward to its consideration in this body.

CONGRATULATING FOR THE LOVE
OF THE LAKE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Today, I would like to congratulate a very special organization on a very special anniversary. On Saturday, July 10, 2004, White Rock Lake's "For the Love of the Lake" organization will mark the 100th consecutive month of shoreline spruce-ups that have helped keep the shores of White Rock Lake clean and the surrounding park looking beautiful.

For the Love of the Lake is a truly grassroots effort, made up of caring volunteers who are dedicated to improving White Rock Lake and the surrounding area. The organization is a shining example of conservation and volunteerism in action. For the Love of the Lake shows what good people can do when they come together to accomplish something for the betterment of their community.

My wife, Melissa, and our two young children enjoy White Rock Lake very much. The lake area is important, not just to those who live in the neighboring streets, but to all of the people that come to White Rock Lake to enjoy the beautiful landscape, water, trees and parks.

For the Love of the Lake volunteers understand that we have a duty to protect and preserve these wonderful natural resources for our children and future generations. Since its inception in 1995, thousands of people have given their time, effort and energy in a variety of ways to help keep White Rock Lake looking beautiful, from picking up litter, to painting murals and buildings at the park, to attending